

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] Resilient packet ring system 100 includes a number of ring stations (station 0 130, station 1 140, station 2 150, . . . and station N 160) interconnected by a ring structure utilizing unidirectional, counter-rotating ringlets. Each ringlet is made up of links between stations with data flow in the same direction. The ringlets are identified as ringlet0 110 and ringlet1 120. This standard allows a data frame to be transmitted on either of the two connected ringlets. For example, a unicast frame is inserted by a source station and copied by the destination station. For efficiency, the destination also strips the now irrelevant stale frame. The portion of a ring bounded by adjacent stations is called a span, and thus a span is composed of unidirectional links transmitting in opposite directions. The RPR dual-ring topology ensures that an alternate path between source station and destination station(s) is available following the failure of a single span or station. Fault response methods include pass-through and protection[[]], as described in the standard.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The systems, methods, apparatus and software of the present invention can be implemented in the context of network transport devices designed to be compliant with the IEEE 802.17 Resilient Packet Ring (RPR) standard, which is ~~underdevelopment~~ under development as of the filing of the present application. The current version of the standard is described in IEEE Draft P802.17/D2.2, *Resilient Packet Ring (RPR) Access Method & Physical Layer Specifications*, April 9, 2003, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. However, the systems, methods, apparatus and software of the present invention need not be limited to RPR implementations. In general, the systems, methods, apparatus and software of the present invention can be utilized in the context of a variety of different networking structures and topologies.